

News Release

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OUELLET TO PARTICIPATE IN BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL MEETINGS IN EUROPE

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that he will be visiting Europe to meet with his counterparts for bilateral and multilateral talks.

The first stop on Mr. Ouellet's tour will be Bonn, where he will meet with the German Minister of Foreign Affairs, Klaus Kinkel, for preparatory discussions to the G-7 Summit. Mr. Ouellet and Mr. Kinkel will also discuss the issue of security in Europe, the possibility of intensifying transatlantic relations, and the deteriorating situation in the former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Ouellet will then travel to Geneva and Berne to meet with Mr. Flavio Cotti, his Swiss counterpart. They will discuss the Middle East peace process as well as the leading role that Switzerland could play in la Francophonie and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, over which it will preside in 1996. Mr. Ouellet also plans to promote Quebec's bid to host the 2002 Olympic Games and Montreal's bid to serve as headquarters for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity.

Culminating this series of meetings will be Mr. Ouellet's participation in the ministerial sessions of the North Atlantic Council and the North Atlantic Co-operation Council in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, on May 30 and 31. Discussions concerning the expansion of NATO and its relations with Russia are on the agenda for these meetings. The Council will also look at developments in the former Yugoslavia.

At the invitation of the French government, Mr. Ouellet will complete his tour in Paris on June 1. He will engage in discussions with the new French Foreign Minister and the Vice-President of the European Commission on the subject of the *Transatlantic Declaration*, which sets forth principles of co-operation and common objectives for Canada and the European Union.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874



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